

August 3, 2022

To the Honorable members of the State Senate and State House of Representatives,

I am following up on my <u>February 11 letter</u> to you regarding the implementation of the postelection audits authorized in statute by the State Legislature. I am pleased to report that election officials conducted the first-ever post-election tabulation audits in Oklahoma following the June 28 Primary Election. These post-election audits, along with three hand recounts of June 28 primaries, confirmed the accuracy of Oklahoma's voting system.

The post-election audits were conducted on July 28, 2022, pursuant to the provisions of 26 O.S. § 3-130, a law enacted as part of Senate Bill 261 in 2019. (As many of you recall, our hope was to implement post-election audits in time for the 2020 elections, but this was delayed due to the pandemic.) County Election Board secretaries in thirty-three counties conducted manual tabulation audits of ballots in randomly selected races and precincts from the June 28 Primary Elections. Thirty counties audited a single race, while three other counties audited two races. The audits were open to the public. The post-election audit results matched the certified election results in every county.

The official report on the post-election audit, including an executive summary, is available on the State Election Board website: <a href="https://oklahoma.gov/elections/security-integrity/post-election-audits/upcoming-and-past-post-election-audits/2022-post-election-audits.html">https://oklahoma.gov/elections/security-integrity/post-election-audits/upcoming-and-past-post-election-audits/2022-post-election-audits.html</a>

That post-election audit report also includes summaries of the three recounts that were requested by candidates following the June 28 Primary Elections. These recounts confirmed the outcomes of each of those races.

- In the McIntosh County Commissioner, District 3, Democratic Primary, the recount results exactly matched the reported election results. The recount was conducted on Wednesday, July 6, 2022.
- In the **Nowata County Assessor, Republican Primary**, the recount results also exactly matched the reported election results. (The petitioner ended the recount early after the recounts of several precincts and in-person absentee ballots exactly matched the reported election results.) The recount was conducted on Wednesday, July 6.
- In the District Attorney District 7, Republican Primary (Oklahoma County), a hand recount of nearly 58,000 ballots confirmed that the top two candidates are headed to a Runoff Primary on August 23. The recount began on Wednesday, July 6 and concluded on Wednesday, July 13.

The election laws and procedures enacted by the State Legislature, along with our highly accurate and secure statewide voting system, help ensure that Oklahoma has **free**, **fair**, **safe and secure elections**. You can find a wealth of information on the "<u>Security and Integrity</u>" page on the State Election Board's website – so please feel free to share this with any interested constituents.

Recounts have, for many years, been the mechanism we have used to ensure the accuracy of the election system. Post-election audits are now another important means to ensure accuracy and improve processes. The post-election audits and recounts conducted following the June 28 Primary Election proved, once again, that Oklahoma has one of the most accurate and secure voting systems in the entire world. This is something every Oklahoman can be proud of.

If you ever have questions about elections, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Paul Ziriax, Secretary State Election Board

PZ/jk